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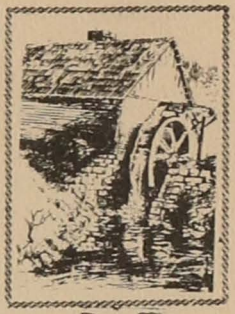
FLASH BACK



Preserving the Past for the Future

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VOLUME 25 NO. 1

FLASH BACK

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EARLY MILLS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

bobbie byars lynch

In collecting data on Washington County history, anything dated earlier than 1826 has been treated as myth. We have a list of people at a picnic giving the dates they came to Washington County, and each one giving a date earlier than 1826 is marked questionable. From an account in an 1859 Memphis (Tennessee) paper, Governor Boggs of Missouri and Daniel Boone are supposed to have visited the old Fort of Cane Hill in 1804-5. In Goodspeed's history of the War Eagle area (p. 422), we read "It is said Daniel and Thomas Jackson settled on Jackson Creek in 1818, but this is probably not to be credited."

In Victor E. Harlow's book "Oklahoma", the following statements are made: p. 71, "The first Cherokees came west in 1794." p. 73 ". . .Moved further west in 1811-12. New Madrid, where the first Cherokees located, moved in a body to the upper Arkansas, where they settled in the territory between the White and Arkansas rivers." From 1807 to 1813, Washington County, or the northern half of what is now Arkansas, was New Madrid Territory. To say that these educated Cherokees stayed confined in an invisible line is closing our minds to history which we might well document if we research with the thought that the history as we know it today could contain errors. From 1820 to 1828 Crawford County was what is now Washington County. I believe Crawford County records of that period include people who were actually settled in Washington, Benton and Madison counties.

The data for this article is not tradition, but is about mills marked on the original survey maps of Washington County, Arkansas. These townships were surveyed from 1831 through 1834, and the maps and survey field notes are on file in the county clerk's office. It is amazing to me that for all our Washington County history, no one seems to have checked these maps for the accurate data they give. The field notes must also be read in order to get a clear picture of the county in the early 1830's. Many homes, fields and roads are marked on the maps, but others are also mentioned in the notes which are not on the maps. Eight mills are shown on the maps and two more mentioned in the notes. Since it would take at least six months to compare notes and maps completely, I will deal only with the ten I have researched.

Johnson Mill (Truesdale Mill)

The mill which intrigued me most is the one we know today as the Johnson mill, which is still in operation. On the maps it is named the Truesdale Mill, located Sec. 21, Twp. 17, Range 30 West, surveyed in 1834, and in the same location as today's mill.

The field notes on this mill have completely verified my opinion that Washington County was settled by many people as early as 1808 — by Frenchmen, Indians, or our early settlers from Tennessee, Kentucky, etc. The fact that many of our early Indians, born in the 1700's were married to English or French men or women is omitted from our early history. Even Captain Stuart was married to a fourth-Indian girl.

Captain Stuart was in command of British troops in Fort Loudon, Tennessee in 1757. He was an Englishman and superintendent of Indian affairs for the British. Fort Loudon was on the Tennessee River, about five miles from Echauta, the Cherokee Nation East Capitol in 1756. It was garrisoned with 150 soldiers of the British Army under Captain Stuart and Captain Paul Demere, under arrangements made with the Cherokee Nation. Susannah Emory, daughter of William and Mary Grant Emory was his wife. Mary Grant's mother was a Cherokee, so Susannah was at least one-quarter Cherokee. Captain Stuart and Susannah were parents of Busheyhead, born 1763, who had blond hair.

History of our Indians as early as 1855 would have you believe it was a story of Indians fighting white men, but these Cherokees were already intermarried with the British and French. Thus, it was Cherokees and whites fighting other Cherokees and whites as early as 1750. (History of the Indians of North and South America, published 1855, pgs. 166-167.) The fort surrendered and all were killed except Captain Stuart who was ransomed by AttaKullaKulla, the Indian chief who is reputed to be an ancestor of Major Ridge (born 1771).

Thus, these early "Indians" as they were called, were already one-half, one-quarter, or one-eighth white, and had many of the ways of white people, and had children who had attended universities in the East.

The field notes state: "Old mill house to the right about 200 links, a cabin to left about 100 links, between Sec. 15 and 16, a millrace 7 links wide runs southwest." On the maps the mill is called the Truesdale Mill. In 1834, what would a surveyor consider "old"? Many of our early settlers were 70 and 80 years old. One lawyer told me he thought at least 50 years would be "old." Using that figure, we go back to 1780. Even if the mill was only 30 years old, we still have an 1800 date. Any place there was a mill, there were more than a few people using it. This puts a completely different light on the settlements of Washington County. The Cherokee Reservation, from 1817 to 1828 was roughly cornered by Batesville, Harrison, Fort Smith and Morrilton. The Osage Indians were in this area also. It is logical to assume that they did not stay confined within these lines. Anyone who discounts this is closing his mind to the history available and accepting only that which has been repeated over and over until it has become tradition and is accepted as fact today.

As for the Truesdale Mill, the race and mill is on Clear Creek, in the exact location of the present Johnson Mill. Mr. John Trousdale was not here in 1830, so he apparently bought the mill between 1830 and 1834. There is no way of documenting a sale. Mrs. Richardson in her book "Early Settlers of Cane Hill', page 28, states that Mr. Trousdale had the first steam mill in northwest Arkansas, and she assumes by tradition that this mill was the one located in Cane Hill. He apparently moved to that location at a later date. Goodspeed (page 267) records that about 1840 John F. Truesdale erected a steam mill just below the town, where some ten years before a small water mill had been built by Thomas Garvin. This record would depend on whether Cane Hill had moved south by 1840.

On the 1908 plat maps of Washington County, Benjamin F. Johnson is shown as owner of the Johnson Mill. Benjamin F. Johnson was a brother of Jacob Q. Johnson, and they were the sons of James and Mary Queener Johnson, who lived in Cane Hill Township in 1850. Goodspeed states that James Johnson was a farmer and a miller by trade. After the Civil War, Jacob bought the land in Johnson and built the two-story brick house and a large saw mill with a grist and flouring mill attached, run by a 36-foot water wheel, the water brought a distance of 500 yards to run the wheel. The present owner is Marion Frank Johnson, who is the grandson of Benjamin F. Johnson and Lydia Lewis Johnson, and the son of Burtice Ben Johnson and Josie Fitzgerald Johnson.

The late M. E. Oliver in his drawings of "Old Mills of The Ozarks" lists the Johnson mill as by tradition having been built in 1865 by J. Q Johnson on the foundation of a mill built in 1835 which was burned by southern bushwhackers. Goodspeed, p. 989, states: "Wm. Moyes, born 1841, son of Samuel and Lucinda Miller, and a Mr. Johnson erected a large grist mill at Johnson, Ark. after the civil war, approximately 1867. Mr. Moyes served in this capacity for seventeen years and then sold his share to Mr. Johnson." This would be about 1884.

The land where the Johnson mill is located was first filed on by a Mr. John Pyeatt Moore on October 15, 1838 (Book 344, page 258). The deed is recorded in January of 1945. I believe this John Moore was born in 1787, died in 1844, and had a wife Lucinda who died in 1881.

Hopefully future research will give us a more accurate date for this very old mill. Certainly it is one of the earliest mills in Washington County and is still in operation after 140 years — and possibly 170 years or more.

Dameron's Mill

Another mill on the maps is one no one seems to have heard of before, and all my research has failed to find any mention of it in the Washington County records. Located in Twp. 17, Range 30, Section 24, in the NW quarter, this mill was in the general location of the present dam forming Lake Fayetteville, which is on Clear Creek. On the maps is written

"Banner's Mill". In the survey notes, it says "East on a random line between Sec. 13 and 24, a house to the right, Damern's mill to the right about 15 chains on Clear Creek and house to the right about 15 chains, a small field east of the house." We must remember these survey notes were typed from the original notes, so either name could have been copied wrong. There is a "Wilson Damson" listed here in 1830. I believe the correct spelling is "Dameron." He was born 1780-1790, his wife born 1790-1800. Mr. Dameron had two males and five females in his household in 1830, in addition to his wife and himself. The patent to this land (NE NW 24-17-30, Book 402, page 289) was issued to Wilson Nicholas Damron, June 18, 1836. Note that this date is after the survey was made. There is no way of determining how many sales were made previous to 1836 of Washington County lands, nor the ownership by individuals of such lands. Many were Lovely County claims and filed at Helena, Arkansas.

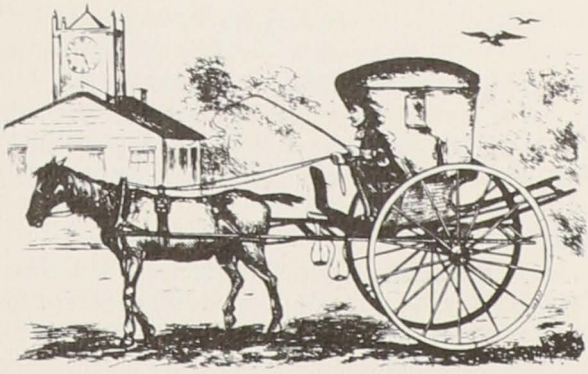
In September 1838 (Book B, page 170) Wilson N. Damon and wife Jane sold NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 24, Twp. 17, R. 30 to Elijah Lee. (Note: Elijah Lee was one of the early settlers of Springdale, one of the first trustees of the Shiloh Baptist Church, and Center Street in Springdale was originally called Lee Street.)

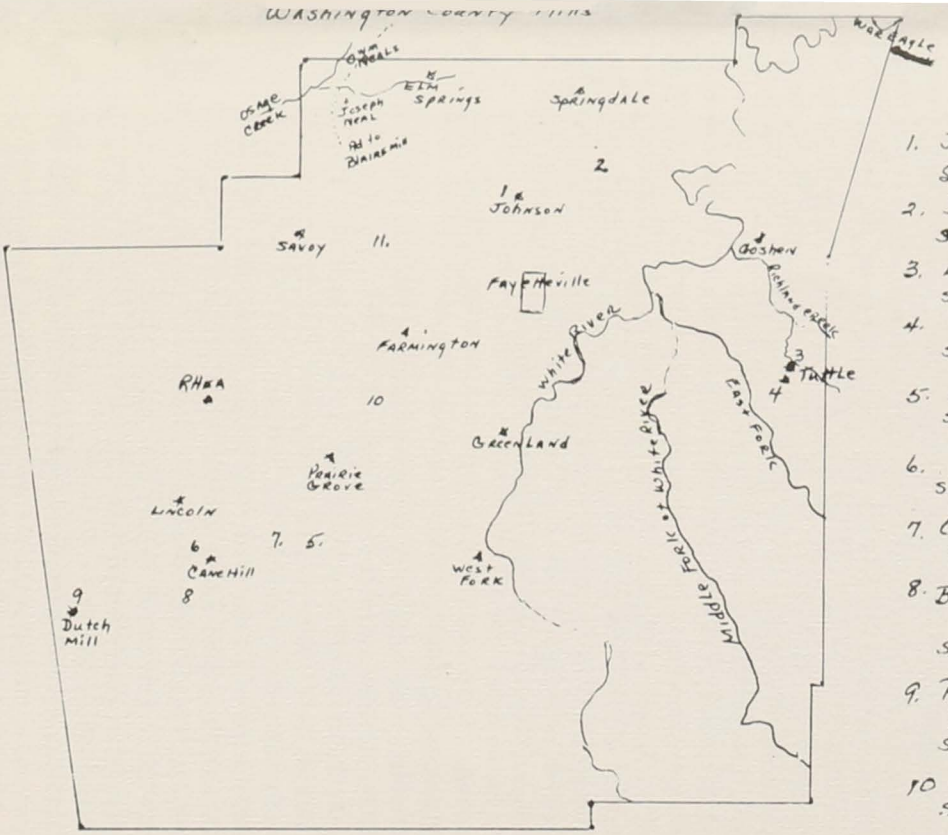
In 1908 Mr. T. J. Breidenthal owned this land, and Mr. Frank Johnson can remember this mill being known as the Breidenthal mill, so apparently the mill was still in existence in the early 1900's. When Mr. Johnson was a boy, his father took him to the mill site and part of the foundation was still there, so sometime after 1900 the mill was allowed to deteriorate.

My research clearly indicates the mill was Dameron's mill and not Banner's Mill as on the maps.

(The Conclusion of this story will appear in the next Flashback)

WCHS





1. Johnson - Truesdale
   Sec 21 Twp 17 R30
2. Dameron - Breidenthal
   Sec 24 Twp 17 R30
3. Edwards Mill
   Sec 21 Twp 16 R28
4. Horse Mill - Smiths
   Sec 29 Twp 16 R28
5. Blairs Mill
   Sec 35 Twp 15 R32
6. Mill
   Sec 6 Twp 14 R32
7. Crawfords Distillery
   Sec 34 Twp 15 R32
8. Billingsley - Cane Hill Mill
   Sec 17 Twp 14 R32
9. Ryalls - Campbell - Herman - Dutch Mills
   Sec 21 Twp 14 R33
10. Mill built 1832
    Sec 5 Twp 15 R31
11. Freysch Lag - Pegram
    Sec 33 Twp 17 R31
    & Sec 34

Cane Hill in 1831-2 in Sec 32 Twp 15 R32
Wilburn's Tan Yard in Sec 19 Twp 16 R28
South of Richland Creek
Rd to Blairs Mill could be to Mill Nos and No8

MISS SAWYER'S SCHOOL

pat donat

This is the concluding chapter in the series based on letters of Miss Sophia Sawyer, founder of the Fayetteville Female Seminary, which have been preserved in the archives of the American Missionary Society in Boston Massachusetts. Most were written to the Reverend David Greene and reflect life and trials at the school during Miss Sawyer's tenure there. When we interrupted our story in the November issue, the long quarrel between Miss Sawyer and teacher Ann James had come to an end with the departure of Miss James for another post — as teacher in a new Female Seminary being started by her friend Robert Mecklin at Mt. Comfort, founder and mentor at Ozark Institute, a boy's school in that village. Because of Ann's departure it was necessary for Sophia to look for a teaching replacement. In the summer of 1848 Sophia wrote to her old friend, the Reverend Cephus Washbourne, asking the old teacher to join her faculty. His response and reaction to Miss Sawyer's complaints about the damage dealt her by the departed Miss James and other townsfolk succeeded in raising the ever-sensitive Sawyer hackles. First Washbourne's letter and then Sophia's response.

Home 19th June 1848

My dear Miss Sawyer:

I have delayed a reply to your application that I should unite with you in the Female Seminary at Fayetteville in consequence of my inability as yet to decide as to the path of duty. I regret extremely that you and Miss James have not been able to cooperate in such a manner as to be mutually satisfactory and for the prosperity of the school. Perhaps a mutual review of all the past, with much prayer and a sacrifice of all selfish considerations and a simple and Christian desire for the advancement of female education in Arkansas will enable you yet to find exactly the departments in the Seminary which you ought each to occupy, and cordially to cooperate in your school for the improvement of the young ladies. Try it.

I think you have no grounds to apprehend that any schemes formed by any persons to supplant the Female Seminary at Fayetteville will succeed. There must be, and there will be, a good permanent female seminary at Fayetteville and no one can be sustained in the near vicinity as a rival. I am very sorry that Miss James is going to Mount Comfort because a disappointment must be the result. There ought to be and there will be a Seminary for males in that neighborhood, and there

ought not to be and there will not be a seminary there for young ladies. I expect that the parties now aiming to establish a female school there will, so far as they are concerned, destroy both. If you and Miss James cannot unite in the school in Fayetteville, my advice to her would be to go to Van Buren, or to some other point. If you both become wholly imbued with the spirit of Christ, you will be able to cooperate.

In regard to myself, I am engaged at Beattie's Prairie till the last of Oct. My health is very bad and is continually sinking. It is quite doubtful whether I shall be able to keep up this my present engagement I think I shall be obliged to abandon teaching altogether. To unite with you, as you propose, so far as teaching is concerned would be much easier and would be very pleasing to me. I could not, however, consent to be in any way engaged in strife. I was never combatant and in my old age and infirmity I flee from all strife. On the whole, if you do not get aid elsewhere and still need it when my present engagement expires, if my health will permit, you may hope for my feeble aid. In the meantime, my prayers for your welfare and well being and for the prosperity of your seminary will be offered up daily. Yours, C. Washburn

Fem. Sem. Fayetteville July 1, 1848

Rev. C. Washburn
Our Friend,

The subject of your advice respecting cooperation with Miss James were not unthought of before our decision. All this prayer and consultation, if done at all, should be done before our decision; for myself I have no more praying or talking to do on that subject. Too much of my time has been spent respecting Miss James, for the last two years of my life. My path of duty is plain as it regards her. She and her brother-in-law, Mr. Dyer, have chosen Mr. Mecline (Mecklin) for their organ of communication; and denounced me in the most unjust and abusive charges. Then, the cause of our separation is not, as you suppose, a want of cooperation but the inability of Miss James to sustain the department she came to occupy. We must have a competent teacher, or I must leave the institution. Nor, talking and praying will not "put new souls into people." I shall still be Miss Sawyer, and she will be Miss James, and here goes the school to destruction. Every effort to retain Miss James in the Seminary, which the best interest of the establishment would permit, was made before you were addressed on the subject. Nothing short of controlling the musick and being principal can satisfy her, or her friends who are urging her to this course. I am sure, myself, that this would be the overthrow of the school. I do not act, however, alone on this point.

Dear Sir, I am hurt with your indecision. I have never before been fully satisfied that you were the one God would have labor here. Now our path seems clear. And your health is the reason, in my mind, that should lead you to leave your school where you are, and come to us and take

such a class, or classes, as you are able to sustain. Here they are drilled to your hand, ready for your instruction — apparatus, globes, quiet room ready — indeed every facility within my reach to make instruction pleasant, and to reanimate your exhausted energies. Then the field for religious instruction and influence without coming in collision with other labours, and their sectarian prejudices. The last, not least, reason you could here be with your family and see them, exerting an influence above all price in this female institution as it regards domestic economy.

Now the strife you mention — is it from me personally you anticipate, or from my opponents? If from the former, I have nothing to say — but from the latter, I only wish for aid that you exhibit your capabilities in sustaining the intellectual department of the higher branches and be a safe reference for us in the Primary. Miss Handfield, we expect, will remain and we will labor to prepare pupils for you. When at home, we shall always wish you present to open the school. When sick, or from other cause unable to be here until the hour of recitation, your classes or class could be controlled. To this they are accustomed. As to a clash for preeminence, you know, dear sir, you are too far elevated to be jealous of my power. Whomever comes here capable must increase while I must decrease. Let the best interest of the institution be your labor, as I know it will be, and with judicious management in the pecuniary department, I feel assured I can give you the proposed salary. I ask no aid in this department, except that you help make out own bills from time to time. I have written another letter on the subject of your joining us that you have not seen. Receive it from your family. I have written to several points for teachers and receive negative answers. All things seem to point to you, sir, for a supply for this school. We are in good health, 55 pupils are in the family. All goes harmoniously forward. We have a sweet family.

Now, our dear friend be candid. We do not wish to involve you, or yours, in — cast — me. The abuse I have received from different quarters and of different kinds, I am ready to conclude is without parrallel in our days. Let it rest on me. I am the guilty one. Let us hear from you soon, as ever yours in Christ.

S. Sawyer

July10: Mr. Greene, our friend, we thank you for your last. Have only time to mention its reception. The school is going forward — how long, God only knows. My nature is sinking. Miss James in good health and high spirits — poor thing — how little she knows of society here. If I live to see the day that I am released from all connection with her, I trust it will be a happy one to me.

As ever, etc. S. Sawyer

Whatever happened in late June and July to make everything come out in the wash is not recorded in any letters in the archives. But the very last letter in the archives makes it clear that virtue triumphed in the end. It

was written following graduation ceremonies at the school and is interesting in its comments about the interference afforded by such elements as the military. This must have been the local militia which apparently sided with some of the townsfolk, suggesting a split in the community every bit as serious as Sophia suggested in all her letters.

Fem. Sem. Fayetteville, Aug. 6, 1848

Rev. D. Greene
Our friend,

If it will give you any pleasure to know that our school triumphed over all opposition and came off with much applause, that pleasure is yours. During the first and second days and nights, until ten and 11 oclock, the houses and piazzas were crowded with spectators from different parts of the county and state, the governor and other distinguished gentlemen being here for political purposes.

The last evening Mr. Walker, our long tried friend and benefactor, asked leave to address the Gov. in behalf of the Sem. In doing so, he brought up the difficulties and opposition with which we have contended, capability, constancy, fidelity and success in management until the Sem., he added, stands on a proud eminence, elevated above the shafts of envy that from time to time have been hurled against it, threatening its overthrow. Here were seated personal enemies far in the distance, while I was recognized as the Principal and mainspring of the institution, surrounded by a youthful band, the sight of which must fill indifferent spectators with delight; while the parents and guardians stood near exulting with the success in Musick. Had I not experienced the uncertainty of human opinion on its injustice, I might have been vain; as it was, I fear, my feelings were of the nature of gratified revenge. Pray for me that the fear of God and the retributions of the mity (mighty) may control my actions. I have written this that you may guard me by your prayers and counsel. At the 4th of July were received the most flattering proofs of public confidence in testimonials of respect and gratitude manifested by the military — the old and the young — some who have professed and threatened our over throw, guarded us on each side as the youthful band passed from the Sem. to the grove.

A few weeks previous, were found at the gate of the enclosure of the Sem. unsealed letters directed to me containing pictures and language of impurity that I had supposed no human being capable of communicating. Some of the same character have passed through the mail. I committed them to the flames, and felt so degraded for a while, that I resolved to shift responsibilities that exposed me to such insult. The good part of the community are coming out now sustaining me in the vigor of my government of the Misses and young ladies which guards their promiscuous intercourse in society, with an independence and firmness that I never hoped to see in Arkansas.

We have settled with Miss James and secured the services of competent teachers in all the departments, all of whom are unanimous in having me retain the management. Mr. Walker told me yesterday when I yielded this, he would withdraw, believing the struggle over. The teachers employed are not only capable, but I believe them so. Forgive egotism and continue your prayers and counsel until I am beyond the reach of flattery, censure or slander.

S. Sawyer

P.S. Mr. Washburn may be depended upon to engage in the Fem. Sem. as soon as his present management expires, viz. first of Nov. next unless providentially prevented. He will instruct in the higher branches of English as philosophy, rhetoric, logic, astronomy, English grammar, arithmetic and mathematics generally, and in the Biblical and general religious instructions of the school.

This is the last of the Sawyer letters and were it not for the autobiography of Ann James, written 50 years after these events, we might never have known the intriguing denoumont to our tale. In her version of these events Ann James tells of how her teaching led to her marriage to the Reverend Mr. Marshall and of the burying of the hatchet with Sophia.

"After getting Mr. Marshall to promise that I might still teach while he sould go and come, I let him fix the time of our marriage to suit his appointments. . .Mr. Mecklin had passed through so many commencements in a new country in which he had to bear the burden of superintendent himself, that he was fully equal to the occasion, and most felicitously did he provide for the enjoyment of all concerned.

"The exercises of the three schools, Mr. Mecklin's, Miss Sawyer's and my own, were all suspended for the day, and the students of the Ozark Institute were engaged from early morn with every available carriage and saddle horse bringing out Miss Sawyer's pupils, who were entertained on the campus in groups under the shade trees by the music class led by Professor McCandlass, or gallanted by the young gentlemen of the Institute.

"That was a rare privilege for those school days and give the Indian girls from the Fayetteville school an opportunity to display their queenly dignity, and they were fully equal to the occasion. We were married at 3 o'clock in the afternoon to allow time for them all to return to Fayetteville before dark. There were five clergymen present at the marriage, and they were invited to a wedding supper at Mr. Cunningham's, where we were engaged to board. . .

"A little episode occurred in connection with the occasion that pained me at first, but turned out to my advantage, inasmuch as it transferred the attraction from me to Miss Sawyer. I had a dear, kind friend in Dr. Pollard, whose lovely daughter, Miss Fannie, had just returned from boarding school, and was thought to be the most suitable of all dear girls

to wait with Mr. Maffat, and was invited to do so, but her father, one of the most kind-hearted and considerate men, had become so prejudiced against Mr. Maffatt. . .that he refused to let his daughter wait with Mr. Maffatt, especially as he feared a mutual preference might grow out of it. The doctor's refusal put me in rather an awkward position, as it was known that Miss Fannie Pollard was my first choice, I could not decide who I would like to ask that would be willing to be second choice. So it was finally suggested and acted upon to invite Miss Sawyer to supply the missing link, which she was willing to do."

Sophia Sawyer maintained control of the Fayetteville Female Seminary until just before her death. She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

WCHS

We follow this last episode of the Sophia Sawyer story with an interesting item supplied to us by Mrs. W.E.R. "Hildy" Crawford of Hemet, California. Hildy is one of Flashback's most faithful suppliers of historic material. Her interest in NW Arkansas history comes by marriage to a direct descendent of the Van Hoose, Dickerson and Lewis clans of out around Hazel Valley. The Seminary catalogue is a photocopy of the original in the possession of Mrs. Crawford and in such good shape we thought we would run it rather than a type-copy so you could enjoy the flavor of the old document and its type-face.

JEAN:

If you already have the Fayetteville Female Seminary Catalogue, do as you like with this copy. I suggest it go to someone who has an ancestor listed among the seminary students, someone, of course, who wants one.

Elizabeth J. Van Hoose was the grandmother of my husband W. E. R. Crawford. Annette and Rebecca Dickerson were nieces, daughters of James P. Dickerson and his wife Rachel Van Hoose, oldest sister of Elizabeth. Rebecca died young and Annette married Dr. Harvey Doak Wood.

Rachel Lewis, born 1829, was the daughter of Bracken Lewis and his wife Mathilda Preston. Bracken Lewis was the brother of Elizabeth Van Hoose's mother, Lydia Lewis, so Rachel would be a cousin. Nancy Lewis, also, is probably a cousin but of another family.

Mary Stone, whose diploma was printed in W. S. Campbell's "Hundred Years of Fayetteville", is listed in this same year 1861, as a music student. I do not understand the difference of dates on the two diplomas. She, of course, was the daughter of Stephen K. Stone, merchant.

Hildy

CATALOGUE

OF

FAYETTEVILLE

FEMALE SEMINARY

WASHINGTON COUNTY ARKANSAS

1859-60

ST. LOUIS
SHERMAN SPENCER PRINTER CORNER MAIN AND MARKET STS

1860

TEACHERS.

MRS. L. FOSTER SMITH,
Principal.

MISS MARY T. DANIELS,
Associate.

MISS ANNIS C. FEEMSTER,
Teacher in Primary Department.

MADAME MARIE JANSSEN,
Teacher in French and Embroidery.

MR. F. F. ZELLNER,
Professor of Music.

STUDENTS.

NAMES.	RESIDENCES.
Elizabeth Allen,	Washington county.
Susan N. Brearley,	Dardanelle.
Martha A. Barrington,	Fayetteville.
Elizabeth W. Barrington,	Fayetteville.
Hannah Black,	Fayetteville.
Sophia E. Balder,	Ilion, New York.
Isabella M. Beall,	Fayetteville.
Mary E. Bernard,	Pope county.
*Susan L. Bernard,	Pope county.
*Flora S. Bryan,	Cherokee Nation.
*Nancy Bean,	Cane Hill.
Jane Brodie,	Cane Hill.
Margaret E. Cunningham,	Fayetteville.
Mary Capps,	Van Buren.
Elizabeth Campbell,	Fayetteville.
Margaret Calfy,	Fayetteville.
Josephine Coyle,	Fayetteville.
Rebecca J. Dickerson,	Washington county.
Annette Dickerson,	Washington county.
*Mary Dean,	Fayetteville.
*Fannie E. Daniel,	Cherokee Nation.
Louisa J. Darter,	Fayetteville.
*Margaret J. Frazior,	Fayetteville.
Sophia Freyschlag,	Fayetteville.
*Helen M. Gaines,	Fayetteville.
*Sarah J. Green,	Conway county.
*Martha J. Griffin,	Fort Gibson.
Theresa C. Griffin,	Fort Gibson.
Martha Gilmore,	Pope county.
Adaline M. Graham,	Fayetteville.
*Sallie M. Hervey,	Lewisburg.
Dora Holcomb,	Washington county.
*Sarah J. Hawkins,	Creek Nation.
Rebecca J. Irwin,	Madison county.
Vitella E. Jackson,	Fayetteville.

* Scholars in Music.

NAMES.	RESIDENCES.
Isabella Joiner, (deceased)	Fayetteville.
Nancy Lewis,	Fayetteville.
Rachel W. Lewis,	Pope county.
*Mary J. McCulloch,	Cane Hill.
*Ann E. McCulloch,	Cane Hill.
Emily Moore,	Fayetteville.
Helen Moore,	Fayetteville.
Lucinda Miller,	Fayetteville.
Alice M. Nolen,	Fayetteville.
Nattillia K. North,	Fayetteville.
Emily J. North,	Fayetteville.
Catharine A. Pegram,	Fayetteville.
Mary F. Pegram,	Fayetteville.
Martha H. Pegram,	Fayetteville.
Fannie Parks,	Washington county.
Julia B. Peer,	Fayetteville.
*Eliza J. Paine,	Choctaw Nation.
Anna Pope,	Fayetteville.
Emma W. Pope,	Fayetteville.
Virginia C. Pollard,	Fayetteville.
Mary D. Pittman,	Washington county.
Emma Quarles,	Fayetteville.
Elizabeth A. Routh,	Fayetteville.
Nancy A. Rogers,	Fort Gibson.
*Mary M. Stone,	Fayetteville.
Sallie A. Smith,	Salem, Tennessee.
*Priscilla R. Smith,	Creek Nation.
*Celestia Stidham,	Creek Nation.
*Georgiana Stidham,	Creek Nation.
Helen C. Severs,	Cincinnati.
Melissa J. Shannon,	Washington county.
Josephine T. Shores,	Cincinnati.
Virginia A. Shores,	Cincinnati.
Sarah J. Talkington,	Van Buren.
Catharine Talkington,	Van Buren.
Alla J. Thomas,	Fayetteville.
*Jeanette Thomas,	Creek Nation.
Elizabeth A. Tharpe,	Washington county.
Elizabeth J. Van Hoose,	Fayetteville.
Lizzie B. Van Vorst,	Utica, New York.
*Mary Van Winkle,	Benton county.
*Ellen Van Winkle,	Benton county.

* Scholars in Music.

NAMES.	RESIDENCES.
Margaret M. Vinsant,	Van Buren.
*Mary C. Wolfe,	Tahlequah, Creek Nation.
*Jane Wilson,	Franklin county.
Charlotte B. Walker,	Benton county.
Harriet E. West,	Cincinnati.
Laura Wright,	Boonsboro.
Rockie Williams,	Fayetteville.
Mary C. Woods,	Fayetteville.
Sarah A. Willeford,	Fayetteville.
Margaret A. Willeford,	Fayetteville.
Mary Webster,	Fayetteville.

GRADUATING CLASS.

Elizabeth F. Massie,	Fayetteville.
Cener Boone,	Bedford county, Tennessee.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

James W. Barrington,	Fayetteville.
George Freyschlag,	Fayetteville.
William Francis,	Fayetteville.
Jimmy King,	Fayetteville.
Nathan King,	Fayetteville.
Dillard Moore,	Fayetteville.
Charles Pollard,	Fayetteville.
James Pegram,	Fayetteville.
Stanley Quesenbury,	Fayetteville.
William Quesen[illegible]	Fayetteville.
Frank F. Smith,	Fayetteville.
Presley R. Smith,	Fayetteville.
Benjamin H. Stone,	Fayetteville.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Whole number in all departments	103
Number in Music	24
Number in Embroidery	30

* Scholars in Music.

COURSE OF STUDY.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Reading,
Spelling and Defining,
Penmanship,
Mental Arithmetic,
Geography,
English Grammar,
History of United States,
Watt's on the Mind,
Written Arithmetic,
Universal History, (simplified.)

GENERAL COURSE.

FIRST YEAR.

Written Arithmetic,
Elements of Composition,
General History,
Physical Geography,
Physiology,
Ancient Geography.

SECOND YEAR.

Algebra,
Astronomy,
English Grammar and Exercises in Analysis,
Zoölogy,
Botany,
Philosophy.

THIRD YEAR.

Geometry,
Chemistry,
Evidences of Christianity,
Geology,
Rhetoric,
Milton's Paradise Lost.

FOURTH YEAR.

Intellectual Philosophy,
Natural Theology,
Moral Philosophy,
Logic,
Review in Different Studies.

Instruction in Reading, Penmanship, Orthography, Calisthenics, and Vocal Music is continued throughout the Course.

Weekly compositions are required from all the members of the Seminary.

Highest advantages offered in Music, (Vocal and Instrumental,) French and German, also Embroidery, (Cotton, Silk and Worsted,) Crochet and Bead Work.

FAYETTEVILLE
FEMALE SEMINARY.

This Institution was founded by the late Miss Sophia Sawyer, and has been in successful operation for the last twenty years. It is designed to be PERMANENT, and to furnish, within the limits of the south-west, advantages for high attainment in all the various departments of literature and science. The Course of Study is extended and liberal, and the instruction thorough. The school, though not SECTARIAN, is RELIGIOUS.

The buildings are new and commodious, and are fitted up with such conveniencies as may tend to secure the comfort of the pupils.

During the past year, a boarding house has been erected on the Seminary grounds, where young ladies, absent from home, will be under the immediate supervision of the Principal.

Young ladies will not be permitted to open store accounts, or contract debts of any character at their own discretion; but all necessary expenditures will be made under the direction of the Principal, and we EARNESTLY RECOMMEND that young ladies be supplied at home with all needed clothing, and that the dress be plain and well suited to the season, rather than expensive.

SESSIONS AND EXAMINATIONS.

The scholastic year is divided into two sessions of five months each. The first session of the next year opens on Monday, September 3, 1860, and closes with January, 1861. The second will commence with February, and close on the last Thursday in June, 1861.

There will be a public examination at the close of the second session, commencing with Tuesday.

Students are admitted at any time during the year, though it is earnestly requested, and altogether essential for the best interest of pupils, that they enter at the BEGINNING OF THE SESSION.

EXPENSES.

Boarders, $125 per year. This includes washing, lights, fuel, and furnished room, together with tuition in all the studies of the regular course.

Day scholars, per session of five months, $10 00.

At the above rates, pupils are entitled to enjoy all privileges, and pursue all branches of study, except the following, for which will be made

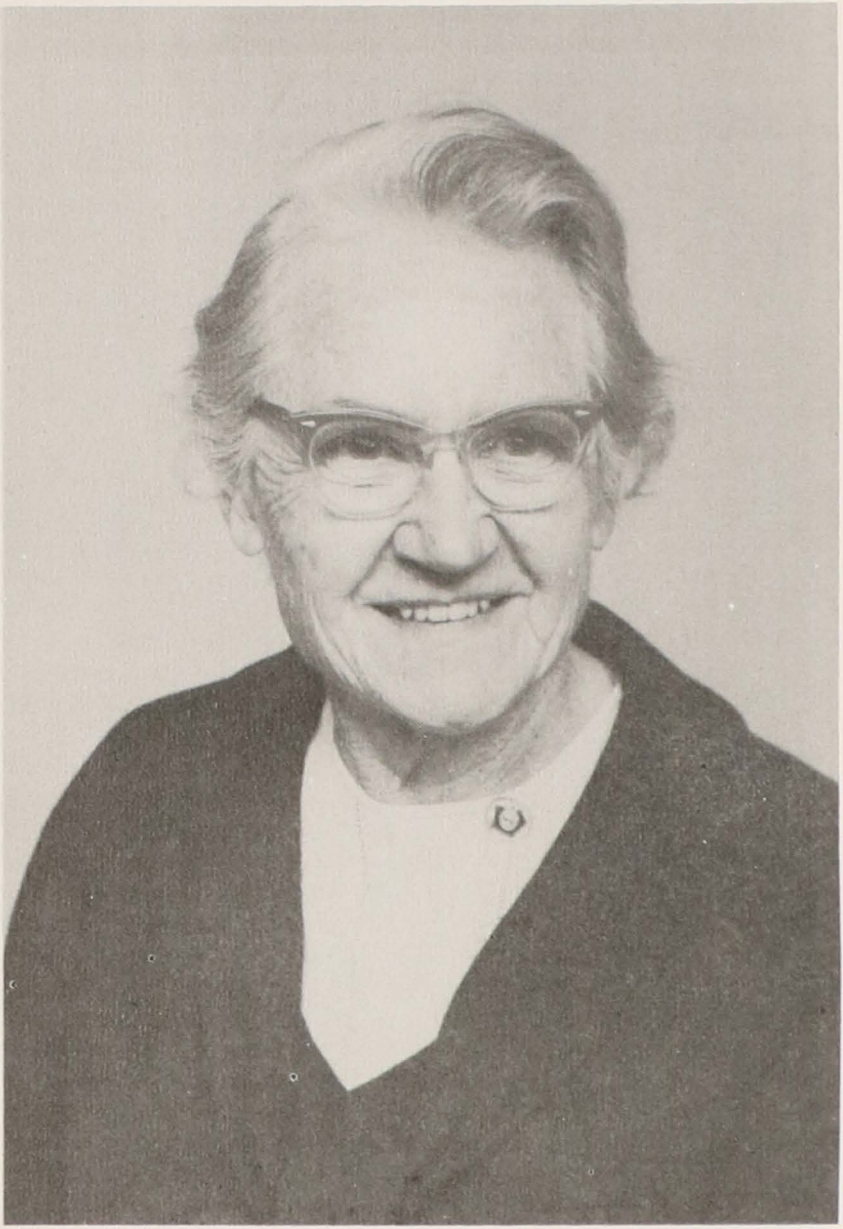
EXTRA CHARGES.

Music on Piano and use of Instrument,	$25 00	per	session.
Music on Guitar and use of Instrument,	25 00	"	"
French and German, each,	10 00	"	"
Embroidery, cotton, silk, and worsted, each,	5 00	"	"
Crochet and Bead Work, each	5 00	"	"

Books, Stationery, Sheet Music, &c., will be furnished at the Seminary at reasonable prices.

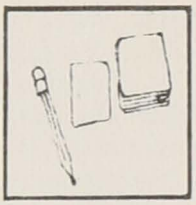
The Seminary is pleasantly located, in the town of Fayetteville, Arkansas, in direct communication, by the Overland Stages, with Van Buren and Fort Smith on the South, and Bentonville, Springfield, Mo., &c., on the North.

The Institution was incorporated in 1859. Diplomas will be awarded to such young ladies as shall creditably complete the prescribed course of study.



LYDIA REED KIMBROUGH

tom rothrock



Foreword: The following lines tell something of one dedicated teacher, but they are sincerely meant as a tribute to dedicated teachers everywhere. Outside the home, whose influence goes so far and lasts as long as theirs?

With the exception of two years, Lydia Reed Kimbrough was connected in some capacity with Springdale schools from 1902 until 1956 — either as a pupil, a teacher, or a member of the P.T.A. When she retired at the end of the 1956 school year because of her husband's failing health, her hope was that some young girl would take her place and teach until 1996. Lydia commenced teaching in 1916.

She was born on a farm two miles east of Springdale. There were three sisters and four brothers: of them two sisters and a brother are still living. At one time five of the family were teaching in Washington County schools.

Lydia's father, Jarvis Reed, had a dairy farm named Jersey Dale. Milk was once delivered in a horse-drawn hack in covered cans with faucets. Springdale's housewives came out with pitchers and received their milk.

It is believed in the Reed family that they named Springdale. Lydia's grandfather was a member of the City Council when the town's name was changed from Shiloh. He mentioned the matter to his wife who suggested Spring-in-the-Dale. Grandfather Reed went to the Council meeting taking his wife's suggestion with him and the name, Springdale, came from the Council chamber.

Lydia attended both grade and high schools in Springdale. During grade school days, she remembers, drinking water was drawn from a well. There were a dozen buckets on a long bench with three to five dippers in a bucket. She heard one teacher say, "I always drink with my left hand and up close to the handle." After that Lydia did likewise although, at the time, she did not know exactly why.

She graduated from Springdale High School with the class of 1915. (The writer of this article knows well about that for he was a classmate.) In those days, if more than one or two youngsters in a rural district attended high school it was a rare thing.

Armed with her high school diploma, a county certificate, and an armful of books on how it should be done, Lydia commenced her teaching career. "I always thought I would be a teacher," she says. "An older

sister, Kate, who was a teacher, was an inspiration to me."

Between regular school terms, Lydia started attending the University of Arkansas' summer sessions. While teaching in Oklahoma in 1920, she met and married W. W. Kimbrough, who was her county superintendent. To the union came a daughter and two sons: Henrietta Holcomb, a past president of the Arkansas Educational Association and a present assistant superintendent of public schools in Fayetteville, Arkansas; Dr. Wilson Kimbrough, Jr., a professor of psychology at the University of Arkansas; Jim Kimbrough, a University of Arkansas graduate and production manager with Cobb Poultry of Fayetteville. There is also a stepdaughter, Lillian Jones, a retired schoolteacher now living near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

"In my discipline work as a teacher," says Lydia, "I put my children on their honor. If you undertake to judge children it puts them on the defensive. I let them judge themselves. For instance, two boys were fighting over a pencil and I put them out in the hall. After a bit I heard them laugh and went to them. They told me, 'We could not decide whose pencil it was so we poked it down that knot hole in the floor.' They had solved their problem.

"Sometimes I even let children fight it out. A little girl was taking care of a bully with a ball bat and I kept out of it. She took much of the bullying out of him.

"I do not like much the system of grading by ABC's for there is too much comparison of one child with others. There was a little girl from another school came to me who could not adjust herself to her new environment. She took sick and her doctor sent me word to 'give her A's.' I told her parents I wouldn't give her A's, but would teach her to be happy without them. 'Come on,' I told her, 'we're going out to play with the others.' She made her social adjustments and then gained in her grades.

"I did try to teach children to be happy. At one time older girls told me that a certain little boy was not right. 'He sees lions and tigers and everything in the woods,' they said. The boy had a vivid imagination and did tell tall tales. After I had several talks with him we laughed together about his tall tales. 'Some day,' he told me, 'I'm going to put them in a book and give you one of the books.'

"Teaching is most rewarding even if you don't make a lot of money. 'My children' still come back to see me after many years and some still write me. They seem to remember only the pleasant and happy things. But it grieves my heart that the needs of all children cannot be met. I have known subnormal children, later on the streets, whom I felt could have been made into useful citizens with enough individual attention."

As previously stated, Lydia retired from teaching in the spring of 1956 because of her husband's failing health. For her long and faithful service she was honored at a luncheon of fellow teachers. Three years later, Mr.

Kimbrough passed away. Lydia still lives on their home place on the western outskirts of Fayetteville. There are 85 acres with 40 to 50 head of beef cattle and pasture and hay for them. Lydia oversees the farming operations. She has taught a Sunday School class since the age of 16 years and still does so at Fayetteville's First Baptist Church.

Like most active persons, Lydia has a hobby — bird watching. For many years she has studied them. Living east of Springdale at one time, she set aside seven acres of land to watch closely. For a period of five years she observed 25 species of birds that nested every year in almost the same location. She states there are many theories and beliefs about bird migration.

"Most species are quite regular and seem to be governed by the length of days. However, some are halted by weather conditions. Others will move right into the area of a storm and be destroyed. Each species has its own time and rate of speed. The spring migration seems to be over a greater period of time than the fall, and in the Ozarks covers from February to May. One great flyway or bird highway in the United States is the Mississippi Valley, and we are on the edge of it."

Lydia is a member of National and State Audubon societies and also a local nature study club. She talks to garden clubs, school children and Cub and Boy Scouts about birds. She gathered data on a local great blue heron for Cornell University; reported to Arkansas State University on a partial albino house sparrow that lived on her place for two years; compiled information on local nesting birds for the University of Arkansas' Drs. Douglas and Frances James and their forthcoming book on birds. of Arkansas. She made a collection of birds' nests (with legal permit) for the Asbell School of Fayetteville. Each year she participates in a Christmas bird count. Her whole farm is listed as "Acres for Wild Life" with the University of Arkansas' Agricultural Extension Service and with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

"But," says Lydia, with emphasis, "birds have been only a hobby with me. I still keep my memberships in national, state and county teachers' associations. My real life has been teaching school. Teaching is a thrilling adventure and involves many things: pulling teeth; smearing on mercurochrome; soothing bruised heads and broken hearts; sewing on buttons; mending zippers; helping put last year's galoshes over this year's shoes. I learned to love life because I saw so much of it."

mrs. joanne o'kelly ferguson

Dear Ms. Newhouse:

I enclose some transcriptions of family gold rush letters. I have been enjoying your series. I hope I am not too late with copy in case you are able or willing to publish. I have typed exactly as the letters are, leaving a few blanks where the paper is torn, or the writing too faint to read.

If you want to use these and have any questions you can call Jessie O'Kelly, 117 Mt. Nord. She has a photograph of the Edward Freyschlag of these letters. It is an only copy, but she might be willing to lend it to you for reproduction.

Yours truly,
Joanne O'Kelly Ferguson
(Mrs. O. W. Ferguson)

The Muster Roll of Captain Rieff's Company of Mounted Volunteers, organized by Americus V. Rieff at Fayetteville in June, 1861, lists Edward Freyschlag, age 49, height 5'9", dark complexion, dark eyes, dark hair, with the rank of Private. He was apparently the oldest man in the group, although the ages of Elias Boudinot and James R. Pettigrew are not given. (editor)

Bidwell Bar Feather River July the 19th 1850

To Lucy

I am now engaged in the pleasant task to answer you two last letters which I received this week the first one dated March the 9 with the sweet lock of hair from dear little Herrmann. The second dated May — sweet dreamer had fergotten the day of the month — of her old beloved) with a lock from your own dear self and thanks to God that I received it so soon after your first one what a silent reproach that letter was to me you had not yet received a letter from me and through my neglect and carelessness those excuses I mad in my former letters are null and void. I know now by experience and ought at the time I arrived her that it was the best news to you to hear that I had arrived her in safety and was well. (will I ever learn to love as you do or am I to selfish a being?) how much you must have suffered not hearing from me for so long a time. I am now fully aware of. how anxious I was to learn how you were getting allong and your letter has given me full satisfaction and indeed you manage admirable well better much better than I could have done. You wrote in your first letter that every body was getting ready for the gold regions

and in your second letter they had all started so it is of no use to write any thing discuraging but you surely had not received me first letter the one I wrote about Christmas. all the dear children were well when you wrote in March but poor little George and had been sick since and I am sorry that I could not share your troubles with you. Uncle Eldridge has been with you, and you have been affraid to give him a description of your old beloved old meany you would not tell a falsehood and the truth would not have been very flattering had I only time I could send you a description of myself which you send uncle so if I should tacke a notion to stop at Vicksbourg in coming home, he would know me but what are you talking about (old meany) in wanting to know my troubles my sorrows and hardships you want to suffer with me sweet prattler I have no objections to send you an account of them because by time you receive them they are generaly over, my greatest sorrow was in not receiving a letter from you dearest but this is all over now it is true I had to go thrue a good many hardships work harder and learn harder than I ever did before but the very knowledge that you and the children are at home comfortable tackes all hardship away from it so content yourself and you must know that I am only happy and content when I know you to be so - You aske me to describe you this country and our journey across the Rocky Mountains and to California my dear love I cannot do it but think of the long winter evenings when I will tell you all about it.

I commenced this letter to day after dinner but was called of to work before I could finish it I am obliged to do so this evening as the letter carrier will starte to morrow you complain of my short letters and I am afraid this will be one ditto. You tell me that James is coming with Mr. Brodie I most assuredly will give him all advice and assistance I can and will send a letter for him to Sacramento City. now I must tell you something about our work our race is finished and our dam about half way and before you receive this letter my fate will be decided if I have to stay another year and try this lottery onst more or if I shall be able to go home and join those onst more I love most on earth, so you must not answer this letter but wait for the next because I shall not write again until fate is decided. Now farewell my dearest love and may the Ruler above us be with you and protect you. Sunday Morning. I was about to close my letter Friday evening when I heard that the express would not leave until to day so I concluded to write a little more. You asked me to mention something about Christian and the girls. I have not seen them since last winter after they left the mines for Sacramento City. I had learned they had started a boarding house at Sacramento and doing very well then again I heard they had left and went somewhere in the country but where I could not find out, now it is true I should have written to Christian and directed the letter to Sacramento City and perhaps I should have got an answer from him but I neglected it but I shall write a letter to day to him if he will get it, I cannot tell, Henry had left for the City to but later in the winter and I heard once that he was on

the Yuba river. You wish to know something about the country but I have seen nothing of it with the exception of the interesting Feather river gold diggings and a person travelling up and down the different branches of the river with a pack on his back and mining tools will find it very interesting you have to make use hand and feet and the mules find it out to their sorrow somethimes for being without hands — falling and tumbling a few hundred feet which saves them the trouble of getting up again the rainy or winter season is most abominable the dry or summer season tolerable pleasant in the mountains only a little to warm the thermometer ranges only from 110-114 degrees and I have heard it was very hot in the morning and cold enough to wear a coat in the noon at the Sacramento valley. on account of the heat in the middle of the day we commence to work very early quit at 11 and then lay by until 3 oclock I have said you must not answer this letter because I do not know where I will be by the time your letter could reach me because if our claim proofs good I shall leave for home and if a failure I shall leave the mines and try if I cant make something at something else, many will be the disappointments and some have been already disappointed after hard labour in digging mines and damming the river and then receive nothing this is cruel but I am still in good spirits and hope for the best the worst cant but come and after all great wealth creates no happiness. I have used and shall use all exertions then if not successfull I cannot blame myself and I shall say it is all for the best if our claim fails an get employment through the winter that pays me well I shall not come home untill next spring but I must be well payd indeed that can keep me from home so much longer and then only for to receive meanes for your comfort by the time you receive this letter all will be decided so keep in good spirits my love and hope for the best have I not your innocent prayer on my side my gentleness? but be reconciled to our fate dearest no matter how it falls and know that my happiness consists in your own. But now I must close my letter indeed my dear. May the Lord bless you and protect you Kiss all the little sweet ones for me good by, Lucy farewell onst more my love to all our family.

I am for ever and ever your loving husband the sun may chang his course but never will I my love for you

farewell you[r] Edward

Ed. Freyschlag

I have only received three letter from
October March May

To Mrs. Jane C. Hawkins Fayetteville Arkansas
(from W. B. Brodie her son-in-law)
Politeness of Revd. A. D. Smyth to Enterprise Missouri - there mailed on March 25

Middle Fork Feather River, Cal
Oct 18th 1851

Dear Mother*

I now wrighte to you as I promised when I lefte home, I am ashame to attempt an apology for not redeeming my promice before this. I am now mining on this river with tolerable succes. James is within one mile of this place trading with the Indians. My wife said some thing about your being uneas about him. I think you may rest satisfied fore he is a great favorite with the Indians and very prudent in his deportment. James has improved in appearance and grown to be quite a man he is very near as large as I am. I think that their will be a disappointment when he gets home. I heare some of his relatives thought he would throw him self away if he ever did come home he would be a disgrace to Society. My opinion is quite the reverse. James is destined to be a usefull member of Society. and a son that you may be justly proud of. Never think Ma that we forget our friends that are at home because you do not recieve a letter from us every mail it is a very difficult mater to wrighte a letter in this country in the firste place if we are in need of pen ink or paper it requires a walk of twenty miles to procure it and then the taske is only commenced for it is much harder to find any thing to wrighte than to take the walke. with the miner it is the same dull rotien of duty only varied by packing up his blanketts and looking for better diggens. I have worke longer heir than any place in the mines and I expect when I leave it to starte home, but it is impossible to say for certain when that will be I have been sorely deceived in mining prospects since I arrived in the mining region, frequently flattering my self that tomorrow should be productive of more golde than today in fact I have been so often decieved that I think but little about what such and such a place will yield, but worke as near like I would in the cornfield as the nature of the place will admit of. I have not heard of Edward F since I left him in the mountains last winter. I think he is still there as he had several claims up their that was thought to be good. I wrote to him the other day to find out when he intended going home. I hope he will be able to come home this fall, as for the olde acquaintances that are in this country it would be as harde to tell what was going on in Egypt as wheir they are, heare is (Old Jack) John Adair that works with me he is the only crite[r] that I have seen for for a longe time that knew any thing about Fayetteville he wishes to be remembered to the girls It is getting late and I muste close my uninteresting scribling. I sende this letter by the Revd A. D. Smythe also some money to my wife which will enable her to pay her board Now Ma I want you to wrighte to me and tell me the news that is a float in Fayetteville how you are getting alonge, and I will be shure to answer

your letter as soon as I recieve it my love to the family relations and friends and accept of my best wishes for yourself in this as well as the worlde to come with Esteem - your son

W. B. Brodie

P.S. Jas would have writen to you but he unluckily spilt his ink he will wrighte soon

* Mother-in-law actually

Middle Fork Feather River
April 26, 1852

Dear Freyschlag,

It was with pleasure I received your letter of Jan 12 informing me of your whearabouts for I had not heard from you for some months and did not know in what part of the globe fortune had lead you and I was truly rejoiced to hear of your safe arrival home. When at Bidwells Bar had you inquired for Colonel Beans ranch you would have found your humble servant there and I doubt not that you would have remained there had you have found the way to Steep Hollow (as we call our place) for we (that is Bean and myself) was in need of a partner at the time. We had fare prospects for a good trade with the Indians in the fall but we were disappointed. The Indian trade was worth but little but the Americans traid is gitting to be pretty good now and I think we will be able to make something this summer trading. William is with me. We own a bar on the middle fork that is rich in my opinion which we intend to have worked this summer. If it should prove rich look for me next winter for I will come home with a packet full of rocks.

I had to put my letter to one side yesterday and wait on a parcel of French who stoped to stay all night and I have just now got out from among the pots and kettles to finish my letter. The mules are standing at the door and as I have to go to Bidwells today I have only time to write a few lines before I start. William is at Bidwells writing for me to carry him dust to buy a load of goods. He does the halling John Bean attends to the house and I do the packing which you know is no easy work but I am young healthy and stout and can stand the racket about as well as most persons I wish you could call on me about the last of July or the first of August and I think I could treet you to some of the finest watermellons you ever saw. I employ my leasure hours at work in my garden. I have beets radishes parsnips lettuce mustard potatoes cucumbers and mellons growing finely. I have only one objection to gardening it causes my thoughts to wander back too often to the sunny days of my boyhood when all I thought of was to finish my days task in the garden and sneak off from mammie and go fishing or hunting but those days are one and I will try to be as happy as a person can who is separated from all who are dear

to him and who knows not whether he will see them again in this world but I hope to meet you all some of these times. I think I will get back some of these times with a fat purse get married to some one of the pretty gals and settle down at something - farming perhaps. I want you to write to me regularly and give me all the news that is afloat in Washington County but don't draw any more such pictures as you did in your last. I mean that of Lucy sitting by your side nursing little Herman. No I can't stand such pictures it makes me homesick. Oh how I would like to see little Herman this morning. He is the only child I ever saw that I could love. He is to good to sweet a boy to be in this wicked world. If I should make a fortune in this country I want you to give the little fellow to me to raise and educate. Give my love to all. I must stop writing as there is some miners here who are waiting for me to go down as I have to pack their rockers blankets etc. Be sure and write. Tell Lucy to write to me soon. You will hear from me again soon so good day

Yours truly
J. W. Hawkins

Butte County, California
March 1st. 1851

Dear Sister,

Left up here in the mountains alone I felt rather lonesom, this morning thinking what I had best engage myself in to pass of the time I came to the conclusion that it would be best to write you a letter knowing that you will be anxious to hear from me to know that I am well, where I am and what I am doing. My last letter was from the south fork of Feather River. I was working in the mine at the time. I have moved my lodgin since then to the middle fork and am trading with the Indians. John Bean Benj. Danders and myself are together all of us Washington County boys. John and Ben started yesterday to Marysville (a beautiful little town on Feather River) to get another supply of goods beef cattle &c and left me up here with the Indians. When I first came among them I felt like a lost sheep. I knew but very little about Indians caractur and I was dissatisfied for some time but I have learned a good deal of their language and they become more and more interesting every day and I had rather live among them now than the Americans. I have been to one of their dances this winter and it was wright amuseing to see them. I will not attempt a description of their mode of dancing but I promise you a long story when I get home if that time ever comes. I was out the other day on a pleasure trip with some eight or ten Indian girls we scrambled over the hills gathering flowers and herbs of different kinds that they use as food. They would gather them and bring them to me and tell me to eat them that they were good to eat. Well I would try them and they would laugh and cick up a terrible fuss. Every now and then we woud

stop and set down on the sunny side of a hill to rest a while and they would gather round me and aske me to sing them an American song and I would sing Old Dan Tucker Old Ned Dandy Jim Susanna and all the songs that I coud I sing and we would make as much noise as you religious folks do at a camp meeting Don't you think I pass some happy days out in this wooden world but oh what a vast difference between these and the hapy days spent at home. If I was at home now I think I could be contented to stay there for sometime until everything become old and tiresom again at least perhaps it would bee a few short months before that roveing rambling disposition that nature gave me would run off with me to some distant country or I would long again to cross the horizon bounded plains to tred the dreary desert and climb the snow caped peaks of the Serra Nevada.

We have had one of the most pleasant winters I ever saw. The weather has been so fine I have almost fell in love with this country. There has scarcely been a cloud this hole winter to obscure the bright blue sky from the gaze the trees have been green all winter and the hills covered with beautiful flours and green luxuriant grass. O what a lovely country I could live here as happy as heart could wish if one being was my partner but alas this beautiful country is far from the home of those that I love and I will leave it with a glad heart so soon as fickle fortune throws success in my path - I will lose no time in getting off for home for old Fayette holds that being in her little bounds that would draw me from the most remote regions of the known world to her hills again. I must stop such noncense as this. I forget who I am wrighting to. What will you think that I am badly in love with some one will I confess I am souse over head and heels in love and I have a right to love who I please.

The Indians are coming in from work and I have only time to scrach a few lines on the next page and bid you all goodby for a season. I have not seen or heard of Mr. Freyschlag nor William since last fall I know nothing about them. if any of the good neighbors ask you anything about Dick Tom Josh Bill or Harry just tell them I know nothing about them I have seen nobody that I am accuainted with but Enias Ridge and John L. Adair. I saw them about one month ago and they was well.

Now Sarah I want you to write to me often I have received but one letter from old Fayetteville since I left there that was from Jack Smith. Give my love to him and all good friends Tell Lucy that I intend to write her a long letter some of these days So Sarah goodby.

May God and the angels tend
the in thy sweet slumber
from
Jim

P.S. I send you in this the top knot of a partridge thinking that it will be some little curiosity to you

J. W. H.

Steep Hollow Feather River Cal March 14th 1852

Dear Sarah,

I was somewhat disapointed the other day when I opined your letter of Jan 3d and found that it was written by you alone for I was looking for the letter that Sallie Wilson and you promised me in the last letter from Ma but as Mas letter was written in Novr and yours in Jan I will not expect the letter that was promised since you failed to stand to your promise which was that the letter was to have been penned in a day or two. You can tell Sallie to take her time Miss Lucy Long. I was truly glad to hear of Ben Landers saft arrival home for he is a perticular friend of mine and I hope you was kind and corteous to him when he called on you for he said when I asked him to stop and give you all an account of me that he was afraid that you would make fun of him on account of his ignorance - laugh at him and soforth, but when I told him that sister Sallie was just such a fellow as myself he concented to call on you and I expect you was amused at his description of my Palis and mode of of living ha ha ha

I was glad to hear of Mr Freyschlags arrival home for it relieved Ma of part of the heavy responcibility resting on her. Poor Ma she has had truly a hard roe to how through this world and should I be fortunate in this country her last days shall be pased in ease and comfort.

Fayetteville has grown to quite a city from what you say and I will scarcely know the old place when I return in a year or two from this. All my old sweethearts will be grown up and married off to. when I think of that I am all most tempted to bundle up and start for home but I could not do anything there without a fortune and if my lady love thinks enough of me to wate a few years on me I will bring her a fortune and promice to make a kind and affectionate husband and if under these conciderations she will not wate for me all I have to say is let her rip. William will return home next fall as to when I return it is all together uncertain should I be fortunate this summer I may return next winter there is a man putting up a sawmill near our rancho. He was up today and spoke to Mr. Bean and myself about going in partnership with him and if I should conclude to do so I will not return home for some three or four years yet I believe there is a good deal to be made by selling lumber and it is quite probable that I will own part of the mill and I own one fourth of a bar on the river which has paid well and I may reasonable expect to make something out of that and our trade is getting better and better every day that will bring me in some money.

I will either make a good deal or lose all that I have made heretofore but I believe I will make a fortune in California yet if I don't it will be many a men in long year (&) before you see me for I am determined to make a fortune in this country or die a trying

It is getting late and I am sleepy so I will close this letter as William starts early in the morning to Marysville give my love to all the family to all the girls and B Hays also

Ed. Freyschlag

A KANSAS JOURNALIST LOOKS US OVER

submitted by mrs. claiborne r. mobley

1940 Hileman Road
Falls Church, Virginia
September 29, 1974

Mr. Lloyd McConnell
c/o Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Dear Lloyd:

I have in my possession a little book which we brought with us from Arkansas (probably from the library of my sister, Anne Magruder McCormick), entitled "Kansas Miscellanies". It was published in 1889 and written by a man named Noble L. Prentis, obviously a quite well known Kansas Journalist from Topeka. The first of the miscellaneous articles in the book is called "Battle Corners" and is an account of a trip that he and a friend whom he just calls "The Commissioner" made on horseback from Topeka for the purpose of visiting the Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge battlefields. Evidently "The Commissioner" had taken part in the Battle of Prairie Grove, of course on the Federal side, and Claiborne and I found this first hand account of what they saw and of what they were told by people of Prairie Grove and Fayetteville, who had lived through those terrible war years recently enough to have very clear memories of what happened, most interesting.

We thought that you might like to run in the "Flashback" a series of two or three articles taken from this account, somewhat in the manner that the Sophia Sawyer stories have been handled. I am going to copy a few paragraphs and inclose them, so that you can see what kind of writing it is. I am not offering to send the book, since collecting old books is a hobby of mine, and I consider this a museum piece, or fast becoming so. However, if you should wish to use the material, I think I could have the pages zeroxed or else could copy the ones which deal with the Prairie Grove area. I think you would probably not care particularly to reproduce the part which deals with the Battle of Pea Ridge.

Very sincerely yours,
Margery Magruder Mobley
(Mrs. Claiborne R. Mobley)

This is the author's description of Fayetteville, to which he has come by way of the "Old Wire Road" – he tells a good deal about that road, the origin of its name, its uses, etc., and he has stopped to visit both the Confederate and Federal cemeteries as he came in.

"Fayetteville with its old associations recalled by many objects is beautiful for situation. It rests the eye, accustomed to metropolises, checker-board emporiums, and "future greats", open to the wind on all sides. It is a city surrounded by high-shouldered hills, called mountains, covered with forests. It stands itself on a hill the top of which has been shaved like a monk's crown to make room for the public square with the court house in the center. On another hill, hidden to the eyes by trees, is the State Agricultural College; and in the settlement it seems that the pioneer citizen, who would rear his house where from his door he could have a view different from any other — hills, valleys, woods, a bit of separate heaven and exclusive earth — had only to select his hill, for no one might see what he saw, unless he stood where he stood. The houses in such towns, especially in the South, do not stand up in straight lines to be counted. There is a great want of system about this old town that has sat down in its shirtsleeves in these Arkansas Mountains. The grades of the sidewalks around the public square exhibit a great variety, and the court house itself would blush among its locust trees if it were designated as a "temple of justice" — it is just an old brick "cote house". The business houses about the square belong to the "since the war" period and are spacious and creditable. There is plenty of old Fayetteville to dream over, and of new Fayetteville to inspire hope. It was hospitable in December. When Spring pauses on her leisurely way, pauses in these valleys and among these mountains to make some arrangements for "peach time", which never fails here, heaven and earth and sympathetic people must be charming.

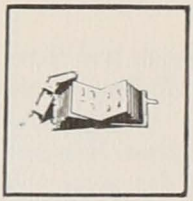
There was no suggestion of "peach time" in the air as we rode down the steep red hill and through the railroad culvert at the big fill. It was a sad, sunless, lead-colored December day, that sulked and muttered of rain, but failed to carry out its threat. The rain had been falling for a week, or perhaps it was for weeks, and what is known in that region as the road, was a picturesque succession of mud-holes partially filled with round boulders the size of a sixty-four pound shot. The traveling public cannot sufficiently thank heaven for Appomatox. Had the Southern Confederacy been established, it would never have "worked the road".

The author's description of his approach to Prairie Grove and his impressions of the village follow on the next page:

"The road which runs as it did twenty-six years ago, leads over the ridge through the woods and drops down into the village of Prairie Grove, which has grown up in the last twelve years around the Prairie Grove Church, which served as the Confederate hospital and near which the greater number of their dead were buried. The old church yet remains, faded and shabby in the presence of two or three new churches. It is a pretty little place, with probably two-hundred inhabitants. It is a yellow pine town, all of wood, save the two story brick academy, which stands in the woods well up the ridge. All of the houses have great stone chimneys outside their gables, and few are so poor as not to have a little porch or gallery running along their front, overhung with vines, still green in December — A bell clear and sweet was ringing somewhere, filling the dusk with its melody. So we drew up at the door of the house of entertainment. If it was a hotel and had a name we did not hear it, but it had a landlord whose name was Crowell. The house had once been built as a double house, possibly a double log cabin, but weatherboarded, and the space between the "houses" devoted in the country to dogs and saddles, had been inclosed, making a room. This style of architecture is quite common in Arkansas, and many a substantial-looking farm house is one of these "reformed" log cabins. In the sitting room was a fireplace and two inviting beds with blue counterpanes. The landlord heaped high the fire. Ye who burn anthracite in a machine, a mysterious combination of flues and dampers, should have seen that fire of nature; wood from the near forest burning on the free and open hearth, air and fire and nothing more, like the fire, kindled from heaven, that warmed the first man. The fire rejoiced in its own brightness and would not let the black-browed night even look in at the windows. There were but three guests of the vicinage, two seeming to be commercial travelers in a local way and the other an old bachelor of rapid but imperfect speech, who told a good many times over about the size of a farm he owned in the vicinity of Rhea's Mill. We slept under a blue counterpane till the landlord came in before daylight and roused the fire to new exertions with a turkey wing and went out again."

The above will give you an idea of the book's descriptive passages. Of course the parts that give graphic accounts of the Battle of December 7th as seen by people of both sides who took part in it are much more action-filled and interesting. The author tells of securing the assistance of Mr. Bill Rogers, mounted on a mule, as guide over the terrain and narrator of things he had seen and knew about. He tells of a visit to the "Morton House" and of an interview with Mrs. Staples (I am sure she was the old lady I knew as a child, called by everyone, "Aunt Nancy Staples", a most loyal Confederate and an active member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy as long as she lived) and others. I do not think it would be worthwhile to reproduce just disconnected snatches of this story, but the whole might be of interest to a good many of your readers.

TEXAS GIRL AND HER ARKANSAS FAMILY



lloyd mcconnell

I like to read old history, especially I like to read about the people who came here when our country was young. These early settlers were our ancestors. I love to hunt up old records to see where they came from, who they were, and where they were put when they had finished with this world.

While we did not know them, we have come to respect their memory. I am sure, if they had stayed around long enough, we would have come to love them, old as they were.

Take the notes that come my way about a Texas family, and a girl named Reba Dale. She came with her mother to Arkansas as a child, went to school in Prairie Grove and Farmington, and grew up to marry, of all persons, me!

More than two hundred sixty five years ago a gentleman named Reuben Tankersley rode into King County, Virginia. With him was his wife, who had been Sarah Ann Beverly, and their son Richard, who was born in 1676.

One day Richard was old enough to marry, and he went over into Carolina to claim the hand of Margaret Rowland. The year was 1712. Richard died in 1748, but there was a son. They named him Richard the Second.

In time, this Richard lad also grew up and found himself to be a man grown, so he chose for a bride one Tibitha Bennett. The young couple honored a grand mother and named their son Rowland.

So it came to be that Rowland Tankerlsey also discovered that he too, ought to marry and raise a family. There was a Miss Clarissa Wade, Alabama born, from Wilks County. They moved over into Georgia.

We leave the Tankersleys, the Rowlands and Wade families for a moment to look in on a daughter of Rowland and Clarissa, who had become the bride of one William Neill.

Restless eyes were turning from the Carolinas, the Georgia and Alabama country, to the ever beckoning open spaces across the mighty Mississippi River. From over there came reports of free and untilled land.

Included in the great migration was a son of Lucinda Wade and William Neill, named George Wade Neill, who showed up one day in Carause, Arkansas. He obtained a license to wed on October 26, 1848, a lass named Mary Ann Munn, whom her friends called Polly.

After a dozen years this young couple had to become separated, for a

war had come. They called it the Civil War, but there never was anything civil about it.

George Wade Neill, in the military, was attached to a horse outfit from Missouri, and he loved horses. The records are obscure, but after the great conflict was ended, George Wade Neill was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives from Nevada County. He did not serve long. The House passed a Resolution of Respect to his memory when he died on April 13, 1864. He was buried in the National Cemetery at Little Rock.

J. T. (John Thomas) Neill was a son of George Wade Neill and Polly Munn. Born in the Caney Creek area near Prescott, Arkansas, on February 13, 1859, he looked among the many Honea people in that section, and chose one named Nancy Malona Honea, whom many people called Honey. Justice of the Peace John Nexbitt took their I do's in a civil ceremony.

Nancy Malona Honea (Honey) was born at Camden, Arkansas, on March 31st, 1861, the year the war started. The restlessness of their forbears must have been in the veins of this couple, for they cast longing eyes toward the great State of Texas, where they settled down on farm land near Gorman, a small village out of Eastland.

The land was rich, the crops were good, and one day things were better - oil was discovered and the Neills were rich!

Then - one day, the oil was gone, a huge refinery that was built on their land was torn down. The fields were plowed again in grains, hay, pecans and peanuts.

Among the children of John Thomas and Nancy Malona Neill was a son named James Henry, born in or near Prescott, Arkansas, on November 24, 1882. When he was four or five years old his father took him from Gorman farm back to the old Arkansas home for a visit.

James Henry Neill, in 1904, married Mary Eva Barron, daughter of a family who had come to Texas from Georgia. She was born on November 14, 1885, near Columbus, west of Atlanta.

Children of this couple were Floyd H and Reba Dale Neill, and that is where this story began. Reba Dale grew up and married Lloyd McConnell, of Prairie Grove, on August 9, 1925.

They have one son, Lloyd Neill, who after the Korean conflict came home to marry Doris Jean Hooker, daughter of Howard and Merle Qualls Hooker.

There are two young McConnells, Gary Marc 19, and Melissa Ann 17, so perhaps the string does not run out.

A few years ago we stopped at a small, sandy cemetery at Gorman, Texas, to read some gravestones and get some wanted dates.

James Thomas Neill, grand-father, and by his side, Nancy Malona, grand-mother, and just a step away, in death as in life, the other grand-parents, J. J. Barron and Rose Ella Barron, the Georgia couple.

in the fayetteville arkansian

Following is a sample of mid-19th century salesmanship as performed by the proprieters of the Fayetteville Arkansian. The series of "teaser" stories telling of the progress of a famous painting was discovered by member Pat Donat. Tucked in at the end of the second letter we learn that the reporters just happened to have a pecuniary interest in the "pitchur".

July 23, 1859
FAYETTEVILLE ARKANSIAN
page 3 col 2

THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER

The "Arkansas Artist", E. P. Washbourne has recently finished a painting of this notorious individual. The talented young artist has not drawn upon his imagination alone in executing this picture but has the portrait of the veritable traveler himself, Sandy Faulkner, Esq. The whole piece is said to be very fine. Mr. Washbourne has gone to New York to get the painting engraved and we have no doubt he will receive a handsome return for this display of his genius.

Mr. W. is a natural artist, before he had received any instruction, and when but a boy, he painted the portraits of his father, the Rev. Cephus Washbourne and Judge Walker, both of which pictures bear the stamp of genius.

He has not depended alone on his native talents in this line but study of several years under the best masters of the art in New York City perfected his taste and won for himself the enviable appellation of the "Arkansas Artist".

Sept. 16, 1859
p 2 col 3
The Fayetteville Arkansian

E. P. Washbourne's lithograph of
the "Arkansas Traveler"

We are glad to announce to our readers and friends that this Arkansas painting has been lithographed by a celebrated artist in Boston in the best manner it can be done this side of London or Paris and that the

lithographs will soon be ready for sale to all those who desire a copy of a lithograph of the painting of "The Arkansas Traveler" by one of Arkansas' gifted sons and who desire to foster the native genius talent and art of our state.

This picture contains an admirable likeness of Colonel Faulkner, the original Arkansas Traveler and is said by those who have seen the picture to convey all the points, features and jovialness of the tale and air, and cannot fail to take the eyes of all who have listened to the well known and well loved tune. We expect soon to receive a copy of the tale as told by Colonel Faulkner which we shall republish but it is wholly superfluous for us to urge any Arkansian to purchase a picture representing a scene familiar to every man, woman and child in the state. Their purses will open to the picture as their hearts have often opened to the tune when played by a skillful hand. We know that the children of Arkansas will step up to assist a brother who is endeavouring to reflect honor upon his state in works of art. Those who desire copies of this lithograph early can secure them by leaving their names or money with Mr. J. W. Washbourne or Messrs E. C. Boudinot and William Qusenbury of this town or Messrs M. Holmes and J. H. Hobbs of Bentonville whom we are authorized to request to act as agents for the sale of the lithographs.

(See Adv)

ARKANSAS TRAVELER

A lithograph of the painting by Ed P. Washbourne Esq. executed by the first lithographer in the United States in the highest style of his art will be ready for sale and subscription by the 15th November next. All those persons who desire a copy of this picture may obtain it early by leaving their names and money, $2.50 each, with the undersigned receiving them so soon as the pictures can be finished and as they can be forwarded from Boston. This picture contains a perfect likeness of Colonel Faulkner, the original traveler. A copy of the story as told by the colonel himself with the music will also be furnished with the picture if desired.

J. W. Washbourne Sept. 16, 1859

July 2, 1859 — Fayetteville Arkansian

ARREST OF RUNAWAY NEGROES
ONE KILLED, TWO WOUNDED
ONE OF THE ARRESTING
PARTY WOUNDED

On Sunday night, three runaway Negroes came to the house of Dr. C. W. Deane, one of whom was recognized as a boy named Bob, formerly the property of Dr. Deane but sold by him in Memphis and from that place sold in Desha County this state, something like a year since.

Bob was armed with a double-barreled shotgun and one of his companions with a pistol. They avowed their object of lurking in this vicinity for awhile was to recruit, or in their words, "to make a rise" before leaving for Kansas. The two negroes who accompanied Bob were not recognized but supposed to have runaway from the region of Desha County.

Since this visit to Dr. Deane's premises they made their appearances at the kitchens of J. W. Washbourne and Judge Davis, asking for ammunition, etc. Tuesday morning their place of concealment was discovered and a large number of the citizens of our county proceded to arrest them.

The Negroes had stationed themselves in a very dense thicket about one mile from this city on the road to Mount Comfort. The company was so well apprized to the exact whereabouts of these dangerous characters as to be able to completely surround the thicket. The Negroes broke from their covert and endeavoured to escape. They were called upon to surrender but they showed not the slightest disposition to do so.

Bob, running toward a wing of the arresting crowd with his gun in his hand presented as though in the act of firing, received a shot from some quarter which killed him instantly. The others, one of whom had a pistol in his hand, refusing to stop were fired at and pretty severely wounded. One through the left eye and the other in the back. They were both captured and brought to town where their wounds were dressed. They were committed to jail according to law.

The wounds are not considered mortal, though dangerous. During the shooting Mr. James Banres of this city was severely wounded in the thigh through accident. He is doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances though suffering considerably.

In the death of Bob, the community feels great relief. He was a desperate character and the terror of the neighborhood. It is supposed from the statements of the survivors that Bob was the Negro who killed a white man who endeavoured to arrest him in one of the southern counties of this state some months since. One of the Negroes who were captured says his name is Cameron and he belongs to Mr. George Graddy of Desha County, and the other says he belongs to Mr. J. P. Johnson of the same county. The advertisement of these negroes can be found in another column.

OLD CIRCUIT COURT (1884)

lloyd mcconnell

The Spring Term of the Circuit Court ran on into the summer with a miscellany of unfinished business to attend to. Judge Berry ordered those charged and in jail brought before him, and came Abe Walker and Minta Jones, charged with felonies which brought them a term in the State Prison House.

Sheb Colbert chose a jury trial, and was freed. It appearing that the Grand Jury had failed to re-indict William Sanders, John Johnson and William Cogar Johnson within the time prescribed by law, the court ordered them discharged from custody.

James McClatchey, a grand juror, was discharged for cause and Abe Allen came forth to serve in his stead. H. Calhoun and Thomas Jennings were declared to be in forfeit on a bond for $200, and papers were ordered issued to take care of the matter.

Banks Alberty asked the Court to issue an order directed to Justice of the Peace, G. W. Morrow, to file a transcript of a case with the court, for how else could a man take an appeal if the case was not filed with the higher court. He claimed a judgment against some one. .

Phillip Yell and Thomas Wainwright, involved in a legal dispute, settled their complaint and the court ordered each to pay his own costs. Martha Reynolds, a plaintiff in a cause, and being herself deceased, the action was revived in the name of her Administrator W. C. Jackson.

The State's murder charged against W. S. Hanna, which had been from time to time continued, was against set over for the next term. A jury had been selected to try the case.

Petit jurors W. F. Dowell and eleven others found Charles Winters not guilty of a breach of the law. C. L. Summons and John Dearing were added to the list of active grand jurors.

Lee Allen was discharged after being indicted for escaping from an officer, and for wearing weapons. Walter Cook had his trial set over to another term. Mr. Winters faced another charge of intimidating a witness, but a jury set him free on this also.

William Strain, with eight others, needed the addition of John Oxford, Burt Sanders and Sam Walker, to make a complete jury panel, and they then found Frank Treadgill not guilty of a misdemeanor.

Perry Mecklin had two fines to pay, one for $25.00 and one for $50.00. The Court added that if the fines and cost be not paid, Mr. Mecklin is to be hired out to some responsible persons to work on bridges, etc. at the rate of $1.00 per day.

Guess the Supreme Court wouldn't stand for this now - might be cruel and inhuman punishment!

Alonxo Sawyers staged a one-man riot at a cost of $25.00, while Jesse Harmon was repeatedly charged with selling without a license. Maybe he was just against the license laws.

I am again some of them - like to have to take an examination and get a license to cut and curl hair, or shave a beard, to sell real estate or to massage a sore muscle, while a Sheriff can go down on the street and pick a deputy with no examination or license required.

Ellis Watkins was tried by Everett Jackson and eleven others - that is the way the Clerk described juries in this term, one man and so many others. The case caused a hugh jury, and the court promptly ordered another one in the box, who found Mr. Watkins not guilty.

John Allen charged with rescuring a prisoner. Albert Byrnes headed this jury panel, which turned Mr. Allen loose.

John Rogers, William Mitchell, J. V. Spencer, J. P. Sharp, and W. E. Sharp, were ordered to pay a $50.00 bond and the costs, plus another $50.00 and costs on an appeal case, and the sheriff was ordered to take the plaintiff into custody until such costs were paid.

Al Waits and Wash Waits were indicted for resisting an officer. It was suggested that they would prefer to be tried in Madison County and the court agreed with them.

After which he named M. F. Lake, T. J. Hurst and C. S. Hauptman to meet and select juries for the next term of Court.

WASHINGTON COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1884

lloyd mcconnell

A Springdale couple, David Lichlyter 19 and Miss Alice Driver, 17 were married by Larkin F. Johnson, on December 28, 1884.

The Rev. John Mayes performed the ceremony for J. N. Liles, 32, and Miss Allie Doege, 26, Fayetteville folks, on Dec. 31, 1884.

A. A. Maguire and Miss Lucy Clyborn, ages 33 and 16, and both of the Maguire Store community, were married Aug. 28, 1884 by their local preacher L. J. A. Prather.

Another Maguires Store couple James H. Maguire, 21 and Miss Matilda Wilson, 18, went to the Rev. Prather on Feb. 7, 1884.

W. J. Maple 23, and Miss Charlotte Hobbs, 16, both of the Fayetteville area, were married Nov. 16, 1884 by Eli Baker, an ordained minister.

W. H. Marrs of Carters Store on Middle Fork, and Mrs. Frances E. Pool, were married by the Rev. W. H. Kennedy on March 23, 1884. Marrs was 35 and his bride 41.

From Winslow came Andrew J. Martin and Miss M. S. Moore, 34 and 35 years, to obtain a license to wed, and then back to their local J. P. William J. Reed for the official ties.

Justice of the Peace C. A. Simmons, performed the wedding for Frank Martin 27, and Miss Loretta Johnson, 22, on Sept. 10, 1884. The couple were residents of the Cincinnati area.

G. R. Martin, 27 and Miss Elizabeth Gregy 18 were joined in matrimony on December 3d, 1884 by the Rev. John C. Sherry.

An Elm Springs couple Clark Mathews, 21 and Miss Lucnida A. Burch age 15, were married by the Rev. Goodrich on Dec. 14, 1884.

A Weddington couple, J. L. Mathews, 22 and Miss N. E. Stone, also 22, went to the Rev. T. H. Day on Nov. 26, 1884, who signed their certificate of marriage and wished them well.

James E. McCoy, 22 and Miss Mary C. Bowman, 19, both of Elm Springs, went to Justice of the Peace W. J. Hogg who certified that he had pronounced them husband and wife on Aug. 28, 1884.

A couple made the long trip from Evansville and were wed in a pre-Christmas ceremony by James S. McFarland, a preacher, on December 24, 1884. Their names were W. F. M. McFarland 22 and Miss E. A. Briely 18.

Joel H. Webb, a Justice of the Peace performed the marriage for W. A. McKinzie, 56 years of age, and Miss Mary Clarke, 42, both of the Durham area. Their date was May 29, 1884.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

by the editor

Phyllis S. Reed, Route 2, Box 231, Lincoln, Arkansas 72744 has generously supplied the Washington County Historical Society with a copy of her book "The Abshier Family History" for which we are most grateful. Should anyone require information about the Abshier family, the book can be obtained from Mrs. Reed for $5.00, plus 50[c] for mailing.

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Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hale of Merced, California have sent a shipment of books to the Society, including many genealogical search records. Our grateful appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Hale.

This photograph was taken in 1897. It shows four generations of the Phelan family. Seated is great-grandmother Frances Phelan, the widow of Jeremiah Phelan. She was born in Kentucky in 1813. Standing on the left is Margaret Phelan, daughter of Frances and the widow of James Larkin Phelan. Next is Sarah Frances Phelan Vines. She is the daughter of Margaret. On the right is Richard Phelan, a brother to Margaret. Her name was Phelan before she married a Phelan. The little girl is Bertha Vines, the daughter of Sarah Frances Vines. Bertha was born February 11, 1894 and is now living in Fayetteville, the widow of Bill Roller. When this picture was made the women all lived together in the old Phelan home, about ten miles south of Fayetteville. It was a homestead granted to James Larkin Phelan. The present owner, Leon Wilcox had just finished modernizing the old home when it caught fire and burned just a few years ago.

The above picture and information was given by great-grandson Robert Phelan, Route 5, Box 56, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 who hopes someone can tell him the exact relationship between Thomas Phelan, Richard Phelan and Jeremiah Phelan. Thomas was born in George in 1790; Richard was born in Georgia in 1801; and Jeremiah was born in Ohio in 1813. They all lived near each other in northwest Arkansas before 1850.

* * * * * * * * * *

PLEASE when you write our Society for genealogical information, remember to send a self-addressed and stamped envelope for the reply. We are unable to answer many inquiries which do not have a return envelope and address.

If you have not already renewed your 1975 membership to the Society, please do so right away! We need to know how many copies of FLASHBACK to print and what budget we can count on. Single numbers of FLASHBACK are now $2.00 each, so you will save money by joining the Society. Of course we need and welcome additional gifts for maintaining Headquarters House, the Tom Feathers Memorial Library, and other projects.

The Society is most grateful to Gerald and Lorane Carter who sent a check for $25, with instructions to pay their 1975 dues, contribute $10 to the Cemetery Fund and use the balance for whatever the Society needs.

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Owen Pyeatt, 3816 Van Buren Street, Amarillo, Texas 79110 wants information on Andrew Finley PYEATT, b. 1801, m. Martha (Patsy) CARNAHAN Pyeatt in 1824. She was the widow of John Pyeatt. Where did the couple die, and where are they buried?

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Nancy Long, 6309 Edgefield Street, Lakewood, California 90713 is anxious to obtain information about the HODGE (or HODGES) family who formerly operated restaurants in Fayetteville. Who was Sallie Hodges, mother of Robert Hodges, who died in Fayetteville September, 1906. (See funeral invitation at left.) Will appreciate any correspondence.

Invitations to funerals were common around the turn of the century, and notices were frequently mailed inviting the presence of special friends to these events. Present-day methods include the handing out of printed notices at the time of the funeral.

The funeral of the late

MRS. SALLIE HODGES

will take place at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon at the residence of her son, Robert Hodges, the services being conducted by Rev. N. M. Ragland.

Friends of the family are invited to attend.

Fayetteville, Ark.,

Sept. 21, 1906.

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C. D. Ernst, 10519 Locust Avenue, Overland, Missouri 63114, writes to ask for a copy of the FLASHBACK published on the centennial of the Battle of Prairie Grove. He says: "I am doing some research on my family members active in the Civil War, and my great-grandfather's regiment and his brother's regiment were both present during this engagement. Charles C. Ryals was with the First Arkansas Cavalry (Union), and Austin A. Ryals was a member of the 34th Arkansas Infantry (Confederate), The Ryals family were and probably some still are longtime residents of Washington County. If you might know of any other publications covering the activities of these two regiments, such information would also be greatly appreciated. I would also like to know the membership fee of the Washington County Historical Society as I am interested in becoming a member."

IN MEMORIAM - ALVIN SEAMSTER

(From NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES, Mon. Sept. 30, 1974)

NOTED HISTORIAN
A. A. SEAMSTER
DIES SUNDAY

Alvin A. Seamster, 83, former mayor of Bentonville, noted Northwest Arkansas historian and Bentonville attorney, died Sunday morning at a Bentonville hospital.

The son of Martin L. and Nancy Cole Seamster, early Northwest Arkansas pioneers, he was born March 1, 1891 at Baty. In his early years, he taught school at Gravette and moved to Bentonville in 1913. He served for 41 years as a rural mail carrier for Route 3, Bentonville.

Mr. Seamster studied law under his brother, the late Judge Lee Seamster, former Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, and the late Judge Mock of Bentonville. He was admitted to the Bar on Jan. 17, 1927 and practiced law thereafter in Bentonville. He served as mayor of Bentonville for seven years, and retired with ill health to Garfield.

He was instrumental in establishing the Pea Ridge Military Park and the Civil War Museum at Garfield which he operated in later years.

Alvin Seamster was a good friend of our Society, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of the area and its past. One of the last services he performed for us was preparation of the following affidavit about the Ridge House:

State of Arkansas
County of Benton

AFFIDAVIT

Comes Alvin Seamster and states on oath: that he was born at Beaty, Arkansas, March 1st, 1891, and has remained a citizen of Benton County, Arkansas since said time.

Affiant further states that he began teaching school at the age of 19 years, with a 3rd grade certificate; that during the summer of 1911, he attended the summer school of the University of Arkansas for 6 weeks, with the purpose of trying to get a 2nd grade certificate; that his oldest brother operated a bakery and that his middle brother ran a cafe; that he remained with his brother Bob and worked in the Cafe to pay his board.

That one of his assignments during the summer session was to write a Thesis on the oldest house located in the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was told that he should see one of the Walkers, as they were among the first settlers; that he interviewed Vol Walker and he pointed out the building at the corner of Locust and Center Street, saying that this building was taken over and remodelled by Sarah Ridge, in 1850 with her 3 boys and 3 girls, and her slaves to help do the work; that Sarah Ridge was the widow of John Ridge, who had been killed by the Ross tribe of fullblood Indians.

That the house she remodeled was an old house at the time, but was enlarged to house the large family and slaves.

Vol Walker further said that had not their tribe encreased so fast that they had torn down several Walker houses to make room for their families, and had they left their first house standing, it would have been the oldest.

From the statement of Vol Walker, this affiant completed the Thesis on the Ridge House. Affiant further states that as a result of this Thesis, he was granted a 2nd grade certificate, and still has this certificate in his possession

/s/ ALVIN SEAMSTER

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

by the secretary

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held Sunday, January 12, at the Graduate Education Center on the University of Arkansas campus. Mrs. David Newbern was elected president to succeed Dwain E. Manske, who has held the position for three years. Phillip Steele of Springdale was elected vice president, while both Lloyd McConnell and Marvin Murphy were re-elected to the posts of secretary and treasurer, respectively. Two new directors were chosen, Mrs. Michael Hoffman and Mrs. Dwain Manske, and Mrs. Richard Lynch was re-elected as director, to serve another three year term.

Al Donaubauer, chairman of the Ridge House fund drive, reported that sufficient funds were on hand to complete purchase of the historic house. He said also that, pending approval of the Fayetteville City Board, Community Development funds of $15,000.00 per year for three years had been allocated for the purpose of restoration of the house.

Lloyd McConnell reported that 230 memberships for 1975 had been received. Mrs. Manske, chairman of the Museum and Library Committee, announced that cataloging of the Tom Feathers Memorial Library is expected to be completed this fall, making the extensive resource material available to scholars and students of local history.

Mrs. Hazel Deal, the chairman of the Hostess Committee for Headquarters House, reported that a total of 558 visitors had toured the house in 1974. Tom Lavender, chairman of the House Maintenance Committee, said that improvements during the year included replacement of some siding and exterior painting.

Nomination forms for the Washington County Historic Register Survey were displayed. The forms seek to identify historic sites in the county for inclusion on

a register being prepared as a Bicentennial project by the Society. Dwain Manske will serve as interim chairman of this project, until Larry Tompkins returns from the University of Michigan where he is working on his doctoral studies.

All citizens of Washington County are invited to participate, and anyone who knows of a historic site--building or place--is asked to contact the Society or Mr. Manske to obtain the nomination form. Nominations will be screened by the Society's board of directors.

The Society is also building up a library of taped interviews with older residents on the early history of the county. Information on this project may be obtained by calling any of the officers or directors of the Society.

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Mrs. Ona Whelchel, 1527 South Carolina, Amarillo, Texas 79102, writes: "I have been enjoying the FLASHBACK as a gift for several years, and I appreciated it very much as I was born in Evansville, Arkansas (Washington County) and now there are only two homes (still standing), which were there as far back as I can remember, and I am 86 years old. I still go back there to visit. You will find enclosed $10.00, $5.00 for dues and $5.00 for wherever you feel it most needed.

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Margaret Barkman of Lincoln, Arkansas is anxious to obtain a copy of Volume X, No. 5, FLASHBACK for December 1960. That's the one with all the Gay 90 photographs, and if anyone can spare their copy we'd be glad to get it for Mrs. Barkman.

MORE – ONLY YESTERDAY

from the Fayetteville arkansian

Fayetteville Arkansian — Jan. 20, 1860
The new Christian Church

This building constructed by the Christian denomination of this county is so far finished as to be open for service. The first sermon was preached in it on Sunday last by Pres. Baxter. The subject was the peculiarities of the Christian persuasion and the differences that existed between it and others which assume distinctive names. The subject was eloquently presented and tersely treated. In the evening a discourse was held and announcement made there would be services held every night of the present week. All that we have heard have been characteristic of that sincerity and truth, force and reasoning that ought to attend the elucidation of Divine Truth. The building is a model for a church. The appearance outside is neat and well proportioned while the chapel is by far the handsomest room for a country church that we have ever seen. The pulpit was planned by Mr. White of this place, built by Mr. G. D. Baker and ornamented by Mr. C. S. Hauptman. It is neat, plain and perfectly beautiful. The ladies deserve the credit for the arrangements the room with the refined taste and better judgment of that class of the community. It may be taken for granted that everything they controlled or directed is just as pretty as it could be. A new, for this place, regimen has been proposed and partially adopted in regard to seats. Heretofore it has been customary for the ladies and gentlemen to separate at the church door and take seats on different sides of the house but the plan is much better we think to dispense with this singular formality and an ugly pond of tobacco juice will be saved the floor if the ladies and gentlemen sit together. We are no old fogy and are in for this as well as all other internal improvements.

Washington County
Historical Society
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